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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 17, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY BENTIVOLIO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S WASHINGTON FOOTBALL FRANCHISE NAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the disparaging name of the National Football League's Washington, D.C., franchise, the Redskins, which I will refer to as the "R-word." The Native American community has spent millions of dollars over the past two decades to fight the racism that is perpetuated by this

slur. Despite their best efforts, our Native American brothers' and sisters' cries have fallen on deaf ears. Such an impasse is largely due to the widespread ignorance regarding the history of this denigrating term. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the painful and violent past associated with the "R-word."

The origin of the "R-word" is commonly attributed to the historical practice of trading Native American Indian skins, Mr. Speaker, Native American Indian skins and body parts as bounties and trophies. For example, in 1749, the British bounty on the Mi'kmaq Nation of what is now Maine and Nova Scotia was a straightforward "10 guineas for every Indian Mi'kmaq taken or killed, to be paid upon producing such savage taken or his scalp."

Just as devastating was the Phips Proclamation, issued in 1755 by Spencer Phips, lieutenant governor and commander in chief of the Massachusetts Bay Province, who called for the wholesale extermination of the Penobscot Indian Nation. The Phips Proclamation declared the Penobscot to be "enemies, rebels, and traitors to his Majesty King George, II" and required those residing in the province to "embrace all opportunities of pursuing, capturing, killing, and destroying all and every of the aforesaid Indians."

By vote of the General Court of the Province, white settlers were paid out of the public treasury for killing and scalping the Penobscot people. The bounty for a male Penobscot Indian above the age of 12 was 50 pounds, and his scalp was worth 40 pounds. The bounty for a female Penobscot Indian of any age and for males under the age of 12 was 25 pounds, while their scalps were worth 20 pounds. Historical accounts show that these scalps were called "Redskins."

The current chairman and chief of the Penobscot Nation, Chief Kirk Francis recently declared in a joint

statement that the "R-word" is "not just a racial slur or a derogatory term," but a painful "reminder of one of the most gruesome acts of ethnic cleansing ever committed against the Penobscot people." The hunting and killing of Penobscot Indians, as stated by Chief Francis, Mr. Speaker, was "a most despicable and disgraceful act of genocide."

Mr. Speaker, such disgrace continues to live on through Washington's franchise's name. In a recent letter to 10 of our colleagues, the National Football League's Commissioner Roger Goodell said essentially that the use of the "R-word" is meant to honor Native Americans. Baloney. He added, "For the team's millions of fans and customers, the name is a unifying force that stands for strength, courage, pride, and respect." In other words, Mr. Speaker, the National Football League is telling everyone—Native Americans included—that they cannot be offended because the National Football League means no offense.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Goodell's casual and dismissive response is indicative of the racist history beyond the Washington franchise's name. Its founder, George Preston Marshall, is identified by historians as the driving force behind the color barrier that existed for 12 years in the National Football League, a sad chapter from 1934 to 1945 when African Americans were prohibited from the league by a "gentleman's agreement" that we're not allowed to play. Mr. Marshall changed the team's name from the Braves in 1933, and after the NFL's color line was crossed in 1946, Marshall's franchise was the last team on the field where African Americans were allowed to play—and not until 1962.

I might also add that Mr. Marshall did not welcome African American players with open arms. It was then that Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, and Attorney General Robert F.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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